

NORTH WALSHAM & DILHAM CANAL TRUST

Registered Charity No. 1180474

Subject: Bacton Wood Lock Work Party Report

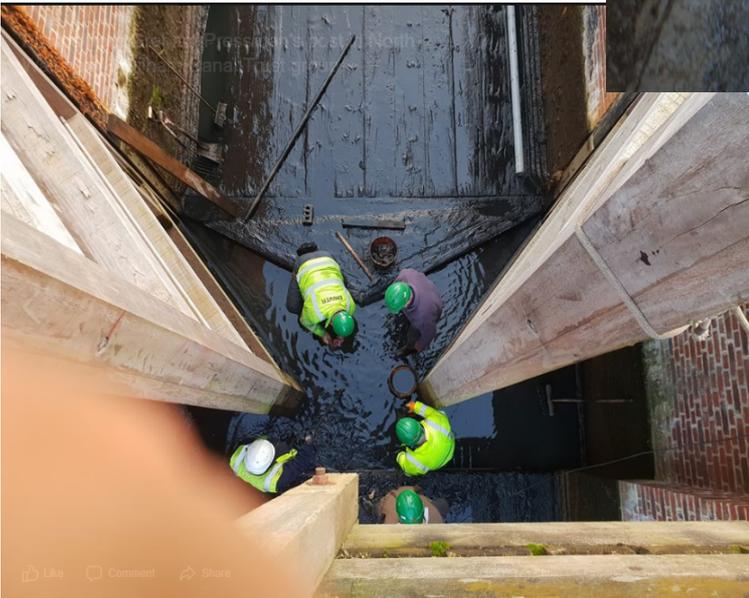
Date: Saturday 19th, Sunday 20th, Monday 21st, Tuesday 22nd, Wednesday 23rd January

Work Party Leader Terry W reports:

Saturday 19th January.

Volunteers met up at the lock and pumped out all the water, removed all the planks, bricks and other debris that had been thrown in. Cleared all dog crap from around lock edges. Got site ready for the Sunday work party.

Photo below was taken by Graham Pressman capturing a unique view of the Bacton Wood Locks wooden floor.



On the Saturday, the Trust's Fisheries Officer Tom W was on hand to keep an eye on the wildlife in the lock. It hadn't been expected to find much, as the lock was last dry in 2017, and is completely landlocked - but NO - over 500 fish fry and some frogs and toads were transferred to the canal below. It's considered that most were probably carried on the legs of the swans that nested on the bund last year. Amazing - and many thanks to the Fisheries Officer and his team for their efforts.

Sunday 20th January.

Volunteers met up at the work shop and distributed safety equipment to Duke of Edinburgh students and warned them to keep away from lock edges due to the icy conditions. They then cleared all scaffolding, bricks and other metal work from the entrance above the lock and also cut down willow growth in the same area with the help of Sue Kirrage, the Trust's Education Officer, keeping an eye on them. Once the lock was pumped dry again the main volunteers erected the scaffolding tower in front of the gates ready for the chain saw man to do his bit on Monday. The steel bands were then cut away from the base of both of the gates so as to allow cutting of the door edges. The



gates were then adjusted to get free movement, the gate on the path side was found to be binding in various places. Concrete that had been put down as a bodge job decades previously had to be removed with a Kangol drill to get free movement. But on opening gate fully to wall it was still fowling, so the bottom of the post was cut of using chain saw. This gave full movement. Scaffolding was moved to centre of lock for overnight security and the site was cleared of any thing that could have been thrown in overnight.

Sunday 20th January. WP leader Terry report continues:

The Ella II Electric's Sub Group

Trust Electrician Darren and the Electrician's mate worked upgrading Ella's electrics. First a new plug and socket system set up to make it easier for the crew to attach and detach the electric motor. Then a new fuse board and ancillary switch board wired in, with wiring provision for the headlight. Finally, the bilge pump electrics were re-routed with new switch gear.



Monday 21st January.

Lock pumped out again, scaffolding put back in position and the chain saw man cut the doors so as to get a good fitting face.

Boating Officer Graham P adds:

Arnie, the chain saw man was in action. Arnie ran his saw down 3 times in the most perfect straight line I have ever seen. It was as though the machine were part of him. A real joy to watch! He bought a special Rip-Saw chain for his saw. He'd never used one before and declared his amazement that it was so easy. At the end of the job, he mopped his brow and declared "Phew! That's the first straight line I have ever cut. It went alright, didn't it?". Yes, it is 3 an absolutely perfect set of dead straight cuts. It will need no further planing. The matching faces go about 1/2 way through the posts.

Tuesday 22nd January.

Work Party Leader Terry W reports:

Lock pumped out again. The doors where then closed up together and wedged shut. The angles were measured and wood was cut to make new top nosing boards, special adhesive was applied underneath both boards. These were then drilled right through and bolted down with stainless still bolts. Strangely the gate on the path side was found to be fowling the bottom again, lots of time was used up trying to adjust the top strapping to get the door to move freely but to no avail. The thought is that the bottom pivot has lowered down in the original cill therefore lowering the gate.

Work ceased at 4pm. Tools cleared away and went home feeling cold and dejected.....

Wednesday 23rd January.

Lock pumped out again and further work undertaken to attempt to enable the gate to swing clearly.

Continue to the next page for a few words from the Acting Work Party Co-ordinator, Ivan C.

A word from the Acting Work Party Co-ordinator Ivan C:

My thanks to all those who braved the cold, wet and mud to wallow at the bottom of Bacton Wood Lock for not one or two - but for 5 days of swings and roundabouts of work on the bottom gates. Thanks again to the Sunday extra volunteers of the Duke of Edinburgh student's, and volunteer work on clearing the channel above the lock of building debris, and the Ella Electric's W.P. which Terry's report is included above.

Future up and coming work parties will be:

- Looking at the fitting of the bottom gate balance beams at Bacton Wood Lock
- Purdy's Marsh winter clearance.
- We also need a small group interested in PAINTING.
Ella's paintwork needs some TLC and some of the other vessels are also in need.

Again, our thanks to all who have worked so hard over the past five days.

Further volunteering opportunities:

- The **paintwork job** could interest a small group working on days suited to themselves.
- **We also need someone to take on this job of co-ordinating the various work parties - all you need is a desk, a phone, internet and possibly the occasional site visit.**

If interested, please let me know and we can get it set up – email workparty@nwdct.org

Ivan Cane
Acting WP Co-ordinator

All work completed on the North Walsham and Dilham Canal, except by the Canal owner,
is done by volunteers

The Trust welcomes more helpers.

